



DePaul Magazine

Volume 1
Issue 412025 *Summer 2019*

Article 2

6-17-2019

From The President: On Creating

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Recommended Citation

(2019) "From The President: On Creating," *DePaul Magazine*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 412025 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/depaul-magazine/vol1/iss412025/2>

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ON CREATING

The DePaul community never fails to amaze me when it comes to creativity. From makerspaces to art exhibitions, our talented faculty, staff and students bring innovation to every corner of campus.

This issue of DePaul Magazine highlights some of our most recent creative initiatives, and I would like to add one more example: a collaboration between three DePaul schools to produce a short film.

Curricular collaborations between colleges and schools occur frequently at DePaul. Interdisciplinary programs enhance academic learning, and that's why fostering and supporting cross-college collaboration is a goal in our strategic plan.

Creative collaborations on a specific project, however, are more novel. This past academic year, Meghann Artes recognized an opportunity to break new ground by collaborating with three DePaul schools to create her film "Oh Baby!"

Written and directed by Artes, an associate professor in the College of Computing and Digital Media's School of Cinematic Arts, the film explores the concept that we all start in the same place. It opens with a live-action musical number, which is a colorful throw-back to 1930s Hollywood. The story then transitions to two highly intricate stop-motion animated segments.



Photo by DePaul University/Jeff Carrion

The School of Cinematic Arts led the filming, direction and production. The Theatre School delivered choreography, costumes and dancers. The School of Music orchestrated and recorded the score. The final product, which will be released publicly soon, is impressive.

The filming and production for "Oh Baby!" were made possible through the Academic Initiatives Grants, which are part of DePaul's strategic plan, as well as Project Bluelight.

As a Project Bluelight production, the film involved students in every aspect of its creation. Since 2004, Project Bluelight has enabled faculty in the cinematic arts

program to make high-quality independent films, all while providing a hands-on learning experience for our students.

"Oh Baby!" is the first Project Bluelight film to have three DePaul schools work together. As one of the students who performed in the film put it, "Bringing the three schools together to work on this project was a no-brainer."

I agree, and I look forward to seeing continued creative collaboration at DePaul.

A. Gabriel Esteban

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD

Watch a behind-the-scenes documentary about the making of "Oh Baby!" at bit.ly/Ohbabydoc.